Subject: Chat with Susannah
From: Susannah <susannahggeorge@gmail.com>
To: barriticus@gmail.com

Susannah: hey there, do you know anythign abt this? http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/blogpost/post/anonymous-marks-bahrain-anniversary-by-hacking-us-tear-gas-company/2012/02/14/gIQAilOVDR_blog.html
me: yep
Susannah: anything you can comment on?
me: ask away
Susannah: are attacks like this aimed at hampering the work of CSI or is it just a publicity stunt?
me: in this case, e-mails and other materials were seized
me: this sort of thing prompts the firms in question to rethink the utility of dealing with Bahrain, in this case
me: even aside from what the mere fact of being targeted can do in terms of bringing unwanted attention to the firm's practices
me: ... the damage done can sometimes be much greater depending on what's found in the e-mails
me: HBGary, for instance, had 70,000 e-mails seized, and what was in those led to a CEO resignation and countless other problems
me: in this case, a lot of other things are being done to cause confusion, distractions for the Bahrain intelligence services, who would otherwise be free to pursue the local activists
me: meanwhile, a firm called Qorvis
me: located in DC
me: and which does "PR" for the Bahrain regime
me: is also being targeted by less technical means in order to encourage them to break off the relationship
me: but even if the attacks were just limited to DDOS or some such, it would still prompt coverage of the issue itself in Western media - in this case, the Bahrain regime's various crimes against its people
Susannah: have you ever seen evidence of attacks like this actually leading to change?
me: Tunisia is one of the best examples
me: HBGary is probably the best
me: it would be hard to summarize what's come out of that one hack
me: you might talk to Maryam Al-Khawaja of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights
me: regarding these attacks in particular
Susannah: ok cool
me: http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/blogpost/post/anonymous-marks-bahrain-anniversary-by-hacking-us-tear-gas-company/2012/02/14/gIQAilOVDR_blog.html